

- Creation of core groups of professional with necessary modern facilities required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of science.
- Creation of new scientific Departments/Organisations.

Science and technology cooperation on biotechnology

681. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and ASEAN propose to boost science and technology cooperation with a thrust on biotechnology, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the broad benefits that accrue to the country out of this; and

(c) whether this help will make Tsunami Early Warning System more effective, to control loss of life and property in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) An ASEAN-INDIA Working Group on Science and Technology has been set up under the aegis of Indo-ASEAN with a view to promote S & T cooperation. Specific areas identified for such cooperation include Advanced Materials, Bio-technology, Information Technology, Space Science and Technology, Technology Management and Science and Technology Popularization. During 1990-2000, R & D projects in agriculture biotechnology were implemented. Presently the cooperation activities are limited to exploratory missions, joint research projects, research attachment, joint workshops and training in identified areas.

Policy inputs by CFTRI on food processing

682. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the major policy inputs given by Central Food Technology Research Institute (CFTRI) regarding food, quality, safety, nutrition and processing on the one side and the effect and impact of such policies;

(b) the details of linkages with international organisations and the contribution obtained by such linkages; and

(c) whether CFTRI need any modification or improvement in terms of objectives, organisations, manpower operation due to its long experience of over a period of more than 50 years?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Director, CFTRI is a member of the Apex Advisory Body under Directorate General of Health Services DGHS, Ministry of Health and Family Planning, Government of India. He provides inputs in the matters of food quality, safety, nutrition and processing which come up for discussion from time to time.

(b) CFTRI has linkages with a number of international agencies, such as Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Indo Swiss Collaboration in Biotechnology (ISCB), United Nations Development Programme, New York and European Economic Commission, Brussels. CFTRI receives partial funding from these agencies for undertaking select research projects. CFTRI also receives few fellowships from United Nations University (UNU) Programme for Human Resource Development.

(c) The improvement in management systems is a continuous process and the laboratory is guided by its Research Council, Management Council and CSIR from time to time.

Survey by CFTRI

683. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Food Technology Research Institute (CFTRI), the apex organization in food processing, has made any survey and study of each State with reference to its requirement and the thrust areas;

(b) if so, how much percentage of such requirement has been met;

(c) whether it is often stated that for want of fruit and vegetable processing and preservation facilities; good lot of foreign market could not be exploited and availed; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures conceived and taken in this regard?